



# News Release

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360-236-4022  
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## **State disciplines health care providers**

**OLYMPIA** — The Washington State Department of Health has taken disciplinary actions or withdrawn charges against health care providers in our state.

The department's Health Systems Quality Assurance Office works with boards, commissions, and advisory committees to set licensing standards for more than 70 health care professions (e.g., medical doctors, nurses, counselors).

Information about health care providers is on the agency Web site. Click on "Provider Credential Search" on the left hand side of the [Department of Health home page](http://www.doh.wa.gov) (www.doh.wa.gov). The site includes information about a health care provider's license status, the expiration and renewal date of their credential, disciplinary actions and copies of legal documents issued after July 1998. This information is also available by calling 360-236-4700. Consumers who think a health care provider acted unprofessionally are also encouraged to call and report their complaint.

## **Benton County**

In November 2008 the Board of Hearing and Speech placed the license of hearing instrument fitter/dispenser **Thomas S. Gilliam** (HA00002496) on probation for three years. He failed to process paper work for a patient to receive a refund for returned hearing aids. He must comply with terms and conditions set against his license.

In December 2008 the Medical Commission charged physician assistant **Patricia Hernandez** (PA10003590) with unprofessional conduct. She allegedly borrowed \$1500 from two of her patients.

In November 2008 the Nursing Commission charged licensed practical nurse **Linda S. Phillips** (LP00038774) with unprofessional conduct. She allegedly failed to comply with previous terms and conditions set against her license.

## **Chelan County**

In November 2008 the Occupational Therapy Practice Board charged occupational therapy assistant **Lisa L. Bertash** (OC00000755) with unprofessional conduct. She allegedly entered into a sexual and romantic relationship with a patient.

In November 2008 the Nursing Assistant Program charged **Cyndy R. Salazar** (NA00118222) with unprofessional conduct. She allegedly administered an incorrect medication to a patient.

In November 2008 the Nursing Assistant Program charged certified nursing assistant **Angela K. Schauer** (NC10081989) with unprofessional conduct. She was convicted of possession of a controlled substance – vicodin and two counts of assault.

### **Clark County**

In December 2008 the Dental Commission charged dentist **Joseph W. Lubisich** (DE00010088) with unprofessional conduct. Allegations include failing to secure a metal clamp during the treatment of a four-year-old patient. The patient swallowed the clamp and had to have surgery to have it removed. Other allegations include failing to adequately document treatment and a treatment plan.

In November 2008 the Registered Counselor Program granted the application of **Denis J. Thompson** (RC60003348) and placed his registration on probation for one year. He was convicted of assault, unlawful issuance of a bank check, and driving under the influence. He must comply with terms and conditions set against his license.

### **Grant County**

In November 2008 the Medical Commission charged physician **Thomas A. Thorn** (MD00039020) with unprofessional conduct. He allegedly abandoned patients and failed to cooperate with an investigation.

In November 2008 the Medical Commission charged physician **Michael L. Thorpe** (MD00042843) with unprofessional conduct. He allegedly entered into a sexual and romantic relationship with a patient.

### **Grays Harbor County**

In November 2008 the Examining Board of Psychology granted the application of **Ryan D. Donahue** (PY00003754) and placed restrictions against his license. Restrictions were placed against his license to practice in Kansas. He must comply with terms and conditions set against his license.

In November 2008 the Nursing Commission placed the license of licensed practical nurse **Phyllis S. Stephenson** (LP00047593) on probation for two years. While she was the owner and operator of an adult family home, many patient care deficiencies were found during an inspection done by Department of Social and Health Services. She must comply with terms and conditions set against her license.

### **King County**

In December 2008 the Board of Pharmacy charged **Diane Barger** (VA00041056) with unprofessional conduct. She allegedly diverted drugs from her place of employment.

In November 2008 the Dental Commission charged dentist **Peter M. Cha** (DE00006848) with unprofessional conduct. Allegations include performing treatments without justification, failing to refer patient to specialist, failing to make or document a full assessment, and using inappropriate material for restorations.

In November 2008 the Nursing Assistant and Health Care Assistant Programs placed the licenses of **Caldera W. Fries** (NC10047803, HC00141666, HC00150777, HC00152116) on probation for three years. She signed two doctors' names on medical releases without their authorization. She must comply with terms and conditions set against her credentials.

In November 2008 the Nursing Assistant Program charged **Lyna E. Howard** (NA00192465) with unprofessional conduct. She allegedly failed to comply with previous terms and conditions set against her license.

In November 2008 the Chemical Dependency Professional Program charged **Robert J.B. Lattimar** (CP00003020) with unprofessional conduct. He allegedly continued to document services provided by a chemical dependency professional when that person no longer worked at the agency and allowed an unlicensed individual to provide counseling services.

In December 2008 the Health Care Assistant Program charged **Ellen P. Mattison** (HC00150115) with unprofessional conduct. She allegedly failed to comply with terms and conditions set against her license.

In December 2008 the Nursing Commission charged registered nurse **Denise Ann McGuire** (RN00162004) with unprofessional conduct. She was convicted of two counts of obtaining a controlled substance by fraud and two counts of forgery.

### **Pierce County**

In November 2008 the Respiratory Care Program granted the application of **Chomnan Kang** (LR60035892) and placed his license on probation for two years. He was convicted of attempted theft and obstructing a law enforcement officer. He must comply with terms and conditions set against his license.

In November 2008 the Health Care Assistant Program amended the statement of charges against **Shirelle J. Mercer** (HC00155208). She was convicted of reckless driving and theft, and allegedly concealed the convictions on her application.

### **Skagit County**

In November 2008 the Board of Pharmacy charged pharmacy technician **Judee L. Joseph** (VA00057385) with unprofessional conduct. She allegedly diverted drugs from her place of employment for her own use. She was convicted of prescription fraud, theft, and obtaining a controlled substance, hydrocodone, by fraud.

### **Snohomish County**

In November 2008 the Board of Hearing and Speech reprimanded **Amber M. Brockl** (LL00003256) and placed her license on probation for 18 months. Brockl falsified her time and billing records by recording seeing patients and providing therapy on days she was not in the office. She must comply with terms and conditions set against her license. She is also known as Amber M. Ames.

In November 2008 the Nursing Assistant Program charged certified nursing assistant **Beth S. Knowles** (NC10052776) with unprofessional conduct. She was convicted of criminal mistreatment.

### **Thurston County**

In November 2008 the Chemical Dependency Program granted the application of **Nicole Marian Moodenbaugh** (CP60025735) and placed restrictions against her license. Her registered counselor credential is on probation. She must comply with terms and conditions set against her license.

### **Whitman County**

In November 2008 the Board of Pharmacy charged **Mark D. Johnson** (PH00011379) and **Tick Klock Drug** (CF00000865) with unprofessional conduct. Johnson allegedly filled prescriptions through Tick Klock Drug after receiving the prescriptions via the internet and mail order. The prescriptions were not valid because they were issued without personal interaction or examination by the prescribing physician.

### **Out of State**

**Oregon:** In November 2008 the Dental Commission charged dentist with a general anesthesia permit **Thomas L. Haymore** (DE00010293, GA10000413) with unprofessional conduct. He was convicted of third degree assault, fourth degree assault, recklessly endangering another, and driving under the influence. He also agreed not to practice dentistry for an indefinite period.

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